WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for generating verifiable reported information, the method comprising:

generating a hash based on ingredient data, wherein the ingredient data is related to the generation of a report including the reported information;

storing the hash and the ingredient data in an ingredient database, the hash being associated with the ingredient data in the ingredient database; and

outputting the report, the report including the report information and the generated hash stored in the database, wherein the stored hash and the ingredient data may be subsequently accessed using the hash included in the report to verify the report information.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the report using report information stored in an application database.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the report using a software application remotely executable over a network.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the ingredient data comprise at least one of a user's name that generated the report, a date and time the report was generated, one or more query statements that generated the report, a version of the data contained in any database used to generate the report, a format of the report, and data comprising or used to generate the report.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one query statement that generated the report comprises at least one of a structured query language (SQL) statement and a data access language statement.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the format comprises at least one of ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange), EBCDIC (Extended Binary-Coded Decimal Interchange Code), Unicode or other character strings, Comma Separated Values (CSV), SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), Extensible Markup Language (XML), HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Portable Document Format (PDF), Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), and Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), a word processing document format, a spreadsheet file format, and a presentation file format.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the ingredient data indicates how the report was generated.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the report comprises at least one of a graph, a chart, a table, a spreadsheet, a word processing file, a presentation file, and a text file.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the report further comprises providing an electronic copy of the report including a verifiable digital signature.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the electronic copy of the report is configured to include a user selectable element wherein a module configured to verify the digital signature included with the electronic copy of the report is executed when the user selectable element is selected.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the module is remotely executable over a network.

12. A method for verifying reported information, the method comprising:

receiving an input, the input being based on a first hash of ingredient data related to the generation of a report including the reported information;

determining if an ingredient database contains a record corresponding to the received input; and

outputting ingredient data contained in the record corresponding to the input if it was determined that the ingredient database contains a record corresponding to the input, wherein the outputted ingredient data is used to verify the reported information included in the report.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the ingredient data comprise at least one of a user's name that generated the report, a date and time the report was generated, one or more query statements that generated the report, a version of the data contained in any database used to generate the report, a format of the report, and data comprising or used to generate the report.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one query statement that generated the report comprises at least one of a structured query language (SQL) statement and a data access language statement.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the format comprises at least one of ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange), EBCDIC (Extended Binary-Coded Decimal Interchange Code), Unicode or other character strings, Comma

Separated Values (CSV), SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), Extensible Markup Language (XML), HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Portable Document Format (PDF), Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), and Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), a word processing document format, a spreadsheet file format, and a presentation file format.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the ingredient data indicate how the report was generated.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein the report comprises at least one of a graph, a chart, a table, and a spreadsheet, a word processing file, a presentation file, and a text file.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein determining if the ingredient database contains the record corresponding to the input further comprises:

querying the ingredient database using the input, the record corresponding to the input being produced by the query;

generating a second hash based on the information contained in the record corresponding to the input; and

indicating that the ingredient database contains the record corresponding to the input if the second hash matches the input.

19. The method of claim 12, further comprising executing a module configured to verify a digital signature included with an electronic copy of the report.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the electronic copy of the report is configured to include a user selectable element wherein the module is executed when the user selectable element is selected.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the module is remotely executed over a network.

22. A system for generating verifiable reported information, the system comprising:

a memory storage for maintaining a database; and

a processing unit coupled to the memory storage, wherein the processing unit is operative to

generate a hash based on ingredient data, wherein the ingredient data is related to the generation of a report including the reported information;

store the hash and the ingredient data in an ingredient database, the hash being associated with the ingredient data in the ingredient database; and

output the report, the report including the report information and the generated hash stored in the database, wherein the stored hash and the ingredient data may be subsequently accessed using the hash included in the report to verify the report information.

23. The system of claim 22, further comprising the processing unit being operative to generate the report using report information stored in an application database.

24. The system of claim 22, further comprising the processing unit being operative to generate the report using a software application remotely executable over a network.

25. The system of claim 22, wherein the ingredient data comprise at least one of a user's name that generated the report, a date and time the report was generated, one or more query statements that generated the report, a version of the data contained in any database used to generate the report, a format of the report, and data comprising or used to generate the report.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the at least one query statement that generated the report comprises at least one of a structured query language (SQL) statement and a data access language statement.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the format comprises at least one of ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange), EBCDIC (Extended Binary-Coded Decimal Interchange Code), Unicode or other character strings, Comma Separated Values (CSV), SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), Extensible Markup Language (XML), HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Portable Document Format (PDF), Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), and Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), a word processing document format, a spreadsheet file format, and a presentation file format.

28. The system of claim 22, wherein the ingredient data indicates how the report was generated.

29. The system of claim 22, wherein the report comprises at least one of a graph, a chart, a table, and a spreadsheet, a word processing file, a presentation file, and a text file.

30. The system of claim 22, wherein the processing unit being operative to output the report further comprises the processing unit being operative to provide an electronic copy of the report including a verifiable digital signature.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the electronic copy of the report is configured to include a user selectable element wherein a module configured to verify the digital signature included with the electronic copy of the report is executed when the user selectable element is selected.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein the module is remotely executable over a network.

33. A system for verifying the accuracy of reported information, the system comprising:

a memory storage for maintaining a database; and

a processing unit coupled to the memory storage, wherein the processing unit is operative to

receive an input, the input being based on a first hash of ingredient data related to the generation of a report including the reported information;

determine if an ingredient database contains a record corresponding to the received input; and

output ingredient data contained in the record corresponding to the input if it was determined that the ingredient database contains a record corresponding to the input, wherein the outputted ingredient data is used to verify the reported information included in the report.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the ingredient data comprise at least one of a user's name that generated the report, a date and time the report was generated, one or more query statements that generated the report, a version of the data contained in any database used to generate the report, a format of the report, and data comprising or used to generate the report.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the at least one query statement that generated the report comprises at least one of a structured query language (SQL) statement and a data access language statement.

36. The system of claim 34, wherein the format comprises at least one of ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange), EBCDIC (Extended Binary-Coded Decimal Interchange Code), Unicode or other character strings, Comma Separated Values (CSV), SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), Extensible Markup Language (XML), HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Portable Document Format (PDF), Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), and Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), a word processing document format, a spreadsheet file format, and a presentation file format.

37. The system of claim 33, wherein the ingredient data indicate how the report was generated.

38. The system of claim 33, wherein the report comprises at least one of a graph, a chart, a table, and a spreadsheet, a word processing file, a presentation file, and a text file.

39. The system of claim 33, wherein the processing unit being operative to determine if the ingredient database contains the record corresponding to the input further comprises the processing unit being operative to:

query the ingredient database using the input, the record corresponding to the input being produced by the query;

generate a second hash based on the information contained in the record corresponding to the input; and

indicate that the ingredient database contains the record corresponding to the input if the second hash matches the input.

40. The system of claim 33, further comprising the processing unit being operative to execute a module configured to verify a digital signature included with an electronic copy of the report.

41. The system of claim 40, wherein the electronic copy of the report is configured to include a user selectable element wherein the module is executed when the user selectable element is selected.

42. The system of claim 40, wherein the module is remotely executed over a network.

43. A computer-readable medium comprising a set of instructions which when executed perform a method for generating verifiable reported information, the method comprising:

generating a hash based on ingredient data, wherein the ingredient data is related to the generation of a report including the reported information;

storing the hash and the ingredient data in an ingredient database, the hash being associated with the ingredient data in the ingredient database; and

outputting the report, the report including the report information and the generated hash stored in the database, wherein the stored hash and the ingredient data may be subsequently accessed using the hash included in the report to verify the report information.

44. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, further comprising generating the report using report information stored in an application database.

45. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, further comprising generating the report using a software application remotely executable over a network.

46. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the ingredient data comprise at least one of a user's name that generated the report, a date and time the report was generated, one or more query statements that generated the report, a version of the data contained in any database used to generate the report, a format of the report, and data comprising or used to generate the report.

47. The computer-readable medium of claim 46, wherein the at least one query statement that generated the report comprises at least one of a structured query language (SQL) statement and a data access language statement.

48. The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the format comprises at least one of ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange), EBCDIC (Extended Binary-Coded Decimal Interchange Code), Unicode or other character strings, Comma Separated Values (CSV), SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), Extensible Markup Language (XML), HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Portable Document Format (PDF), Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), and Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), a word processing document format, a spreadsheet file format, and a presentation file format.

49. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the ingredient data indicates how the report was generated.

50. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the report comprises at least one of a graph, a chart, a table, and a spreadsheet, a word processing file, a presentation file, and a text file.

51. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein outputting the report further comprises providing an electronic copy of the report including a verifiable digital signature.

52. The computer-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the electronic copy of the report is configured to include a user selectable element wherein a module configured to verify the digital signature included with the electronic copy of the report is executed when the user selectable element is selected.

53. The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the module is remotely executable over a network.

54. A computer-readable medium comprising a set of instructions which when executed perform a method for verifying the accuracy of reported information, the method comprising:

receiving an input, the input being based on a first hash of ingredient data related to the generation of a report including the reported information;

determining if an ingredient database contains a record corresponding to the received input; and

outputting ingredient data contained in the record corresponding to the input if it was determined that the ingredient database contains a record corresponding to the input, wherein the outputted ingredient data is used to verify the reported information included in the report.

55. The computer-readable medium of claim 54, wherein the ingredient data comprise at least one of a user's name that generated the report, a date and time the report was generated, one or more query statements that generated the report, a version of the data contained in any database used to generate the report, a format of the report, and data comprising or used to generate the report.

56. The computer-readable medium of claim 55, wherein the at least one query statement that generated the report comprises at least one of a structured query language (SQL) statement and a data access language statement.

57. The computer-readable medium of claim 55, wherein the format comprises at least one of ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange), EBCDIC (Extended Binary-Coded Decimal Interchange Code), Unicode or other character strings, Comma Separated Values (CSV), SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), Extensible Markup Language (XML), HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Portable Document Format (PDF), Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG), and Graphics Interchange Format (GIF), a word processing document format, a spreadsheet file format, and a presentation file format.

58. The computer-readable medium of claim 54, wherein the ingredient data indicate how the report was generated.

59. The computer-readable medium of claim 54, wherein the report comprises at least one of a graph, a chart, a table, and a spreadsheet, a word processing file, a presentation file, and a text file.

60. The computer-readable medium of claim 54, wherein determining if the ingredient database contains the record corresponding to the input further comprises:

querying the ingredient database using the input, the record corresponding to the input being produced by the query;

generating a second hash based on the information contained in the record corresponding to the input; and

indicating that the ingredient database contains the record corresponding to the input if the second hash matches the input.

61. The computer-readable medium of claim 54, further comprising executing a module configured to verify a digital signature included with an electronic copy of the report.

62. The computer-readable medium of claim 61, wherein the electronic copy of the report is configured to include a user selectable element wherein the module is executed when the user selectable element is selected.

63. The computer-readable medium of claim 61, wherein the module is remotely executed over a network.